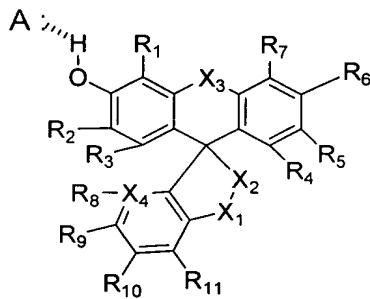


What is claimed is:

1. A compound represented by the formula



(I)

wherein:

R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄, R₅, and R₇ are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, alkenyl, substituted alkenyl, alkynyl, substituted alkynyl, heterocycloalkyl, substituted heterocycloalkyl, substituted carbonyl, acylamino, halogen, nitro, nitrilo, sulfonyl, aryl, substituted aryl, heteroaryl, substituted heteroaryl, oxygen, substituted oxygen, nitrogen, substituted nitrogen, sulfur and substituted sulfur;

R₆ is selected from the group consisting of halogen, oxygen, substituted oxygen, nitrogen, substituted nitrogen, sulfur and substituted sulfur;

R₈, R₉, R₁₀ and R₁₁ are each independently absent or selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, alkenyl, substituted alkenyl,

alkynyl, substituted alkynyl, heterocycloalkyl, substituted heterocycloalkyl, substituted carbonyl, acylamino, halogen, nitro, nitrilo, sulfonyl, aryl, substituted aryl, heteroaryl, substituted heteroaryl, oxygen, substituted oxygen, nitrogen, substituted nitrogen, sulfur and substituted sulfur;

X_1 is selected from the group consisting of carbonyl, methylene, substituted methylene, and sulfonyl;

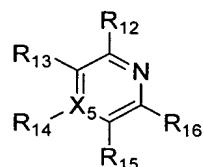
X_2 is selected from the group consisting of oxygen, nitrogen, or substituted nitrogen;

X_3 is selected from the group consisting of oxygen, sulfur, nitrogen and substituted nitrogen;

X_4 is carbon or nitrogen; and

A is a hydrogen-bond accepting group.

2. A compound according to Claim 1 wherein A is a radical of a compound represented by the formula



(II)

wherein:

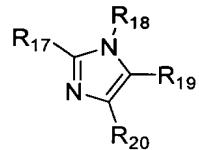
R_{12} , R_{13} , R_{14} , R_{15} and R_{16} are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, alkenyl, substituted alkenyl, alkynyl, substituted alkynyl, heterocycloalkyl, substituted heterocycloalkyl, substituted carbonyl,

acylamino, halogen, nitro, nitrilo, sulfonyl, aryl, substituted aryl, heteroaryl, substituted heteroaryl, substituted oxygen, nitrogen, substituted nitrogen, and substituted sulfur; and

X₅ is carbon or nitrogen.

3. A compound as defined in Claim 2 wherein A is a radical of a compound selected from the group consisting of phenanthroline, 2,9-dimethylphenanthroline, 4,5,6,7-tetramethylphenanthroline, methyl picolinate, ethyl picolinate, pyrazine, 4,4'-bipyridine, 2,2'-bipyridine, 1,2-bis(4-pyridyl)ethane and trans-1,2-bis(4-pyridyl)ethylene.

4. A compound according to Claim 1 wherein A is a radical of a compound represented by the formula



(III)

wherein

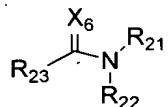
R₁₇, R₁₉ and R₂₀ are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, alkenyl, substituted alkenyl, alkynyl, substituted alkynyl, heterocycloalkyl, substituted

heterocycloalkyl, substituted carbonyl, acylamino, halogen, nitro, nitrilo, sulfonyl, aryl, substituted aryl, heteroaryl, substituted heteroaryl, substituted oxygen, nitrogen, substituted nitrogen and substituted sulfur; and

R_{18} is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, substituted alkyl, alkenyl, substituted alkenyl, alkynyl, substituted alkynyl, heterocycloalkyl, substituted heterocycloalkyl, substituted carbonyl, acylamino, sulfonyl, aryl, substituted aryl, heteroaryl, substituted heteroaryl, substituted oxygen and substituted nitrogen.

5. A compound as defined in Claim 4 wherein A is a radical of a compound selected from the group consisting of 1-benzylimidazole, 1-benzyl-2-phenylimidazole, 1-benzyl-2-methylimidazole, 1-benzylbenzimidazole, 1-benzyl-2-methybenzimidazole, 1-(2-ethoxy-1-ethyl)benzimidazole, 1-(2-methoxy-1-ethyl)-2-methylbenzimidazole, 1-ethyl-2-phenylbenzimidazole, and 1-benzyl-2-(4-chlorophenyl)benzimidazole.

6. A compound according to Claim 1 wherein A is a radical of a compound represented by the formula



(IV)

wherein:

R_{21} and R_{22} are each independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, substituted alkyl, alkenyl, substituted alkenyl, alkynyl, substituted alkynyl, heterocycloalkyl, substituted heterocycloalkyl, substituted carbonyl, acylamino, sulfonyl, aryl, substituted aryl, heteroaryl and substituted heteroaryl,

or R_{21} and R_{22} taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a heterocycloalkyl ring having four to eight members;

R_{23} is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, substituted alkyl, alkenyl, substituted alkenyl, alkynyl, substituted alkynyl, heterocycloalkyl, substituted heterocycloalkyl, substituted carbonyl, acylamino, sulfonyl, aryl, substituted aryl, heteroaryl, substituted heteroaryl, substituted oxygen, substituted nitrogen and substituted sulfur,

or R_{22} and R_{23} taken together with the nitrogen and carbon atoms to which they are respectively attached form a heterocycloalkyl ring having four to eight members; and

X_6 is oxygen, sulfur or substituted nitrogen.

7. A compound as defined in Claim 6 wherein A is a radical of a compound selected from the group consisting of N,N,N',N' -tetramethylterephalamide, N,N,N',N' -tetrabutylterephalamide, 1,4-dimethyl-2,3-dioxopiperazine, dimethylbenzamide, N-acetylindoline, N-propionylindoline, N-acetyl-5-bromoindoline, N-benzoylmorpholine, N-benzoylpyrrolidine, N-

benzoylpiperidine, N-acetyl-5-chloroindoline and N-phenylpyrrolidinone.

8. The imaging member comprising a first image-forming layer including a compound according to Claim 1, said compound being in the crystalline form.

9. The imaging member as defined in Claim 8 and further including a substrate and at least a second color-forming layer, said second color-forming layer being capable of forming a color different from that formed by said first color-forming layer.

10. The imaging member as defined in Claim 9 and further including a third color-forming layer, said third color-forming layer being capable of forming a color different from those formed by said first and second color-forming layers.

11. The imaging member as defined in Claim 10 wherein said color-forming layers form magenta, cyan and yellow color, respectively.

12. The imaging method comprising
(a) providing an imaging member as defined in Claim 8; and
(b) converting at least a portion of said compound to the liquid form in an imagewise pattern whereby an image is formed.

13. The imaging method as defined in Claim 12 wherein step (b) comprises applying an imagewise pattern of thermal energy to said imaging member whereby at least a portion of said compound is converted to the liquid form and an image is formed.

14. The imaging method as defined in Claim 13 wherein said imaging member further includes a substrate and at least a second color-forming layer, said second color-forming layer being capable of forming a color different from that formed by said first color-forming layer.

15. The imaging method as defined in Claim 14 wherein said imaging member further includes a third color-forming layer, said third color-forming layer being capable of forming a color different from those formed by said first and second color-forming layers.

16. A thermal imaging method as defined in Claim 15 wherein said color-forming layers form magenta, cyan and yellow color, respectively.